update

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news and events

New York. UN Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management Martti Ahtisaari is leading a fact-finding team to Iraq and Kuwait this month to assess the emergency relief needs of the two countries in the aftermath of the Gulf War. Mr. Ahtisaari led the UN Transitional Assistance Group for Namibia prior to that country's independence last year. In addition to officials from the UN, the delegation to Iraq and Kuwait will consist of representatives from UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, the Office of the UN Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization. On its return, the group will submit its findings to UN Secretary-General Javier Peréz de Cuéllar.

UNDP is represented by Michael Priestley, Senior Adviser to the Administrator on Emergencies, Refugee and Displaced Persons Affairs. Mr. Priestley is a member of the UNDP Gulf Task Force which is co-ordinated by the Regional Bureau for Arab States and Europe.

Meanwhile, UNDP's field offices in Baghdad and Kuwait City, which suspended operations when war broke out in the region, resumed functioning this month with the return of their Resident Representatives.

New York. At a special meeting of the International Women's Forum on 1 March, UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III spoke of six major development challenges facing the international community in the 1990s. They are peace, participation, human development, a conducive international economic and financial system, sustainable development and slower population growth. To tackle these challenges, said Mr. Draper, global co-operation is imperative.

"No nation, no region, no economic, political or other grouping can go it alone," Mr. Draper stressed. "We need to use all the world's leadership and all our institutions to establish a new atmosphere and new mechanisms of co-operation." The United Nations system will have a critical role to play, he added.

Referring to the end of the Gulf conflict and return to peace in the area, Mr. Draper said UNDP will work with other development agencies to rebuild transport and communication networks, and rehabilitate damaged buildings.

Looking at the tasks ahead, Mr. Draper pointed out that many countries now realize the need to pursue participatory development that guarantees economic and political freedom. "Too restrictive economic and financial policies have encouraged capital flight," he said.

UNDP, asserted Mr. Draper, places great importance on women's participation in development, especially since women represent half the world's productivity. "We insist that women become both participants in, and beneficiaries of, development activities," he said.

Mr. Draper cited Nepal where a UNDP-funded education project has helped 6,000 women and young girls to read and write. In Haiti, UNDP has helped 700 women improve their entrepreneurial skills and obtain loans. In Ghana, a UNDP-funded project has tripled maize production and enabled Ghana's farmers -- who are mainly women -- to borrow money in their own name.

New York. UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III urged nations to create an environment in which women can participate equally with men. "We must remain guided by our vision of human development," he said in remarks to commemorate International Women's Day on 8 March. Mr. Draper pledged that UNDP will ensure that its projects are gender sensitive, particularly those related to the environment, poverty, AIDS, refugees and displaced persons.

The Administrator noted that despite the launch of the UN Decade for Women 15 years ago, there are still major differences that must be addressed, ranging from income disparities between men and women workers to gender discrimination in the distribution of land, credit and social services. "We must make it a priority to provide more opportunities to address women's issues in areas where real inroads

can be made by UNDP and its partners," Mr. Draper said.

New York. On the anniversary of the March 1990 Education for All Conference in Jomtien, Thailand, executive heads of UNDP, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank and UNICEF renewed their commitment to meeting basic learning needs. The joint statement, issued simultaneously in Paris, New York and Washington D.C. on 8 March, was signed by the heads of the sponsoring organizations: William H. Draper III, UNDP Administrator, James P. Grant, UNICEF Executive Secretary, Barber Conable, World Bank President and Federico Mayor, UNESCO Director-General. Delegates from more than 150 countries attended the five-day conference last year and pledged to achieve basic education for all by the year 2000.

Today, one in five adults can neither read nor write. "We wish to reaffirm our conviction that basic education for all is not only a human right," reads the joint communique, "it is also the cornerstone of human development." The sponsors contended that to achieve this goal, there is a need for greater effort at the country level and additional support by the international community.

New York. The UN Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (UNRFNRE), which discovered gold and silver deposits in Honduras, is now helping the government organize international competitive bidding to attract capable mining companies to extract the ore. The UNDP-administered Fund discovered the economically viable deposit in Yuscaran, 42 kilometres southeast of the capital city of Tegucigalpa, after three years of exploration. The value of the ore in the ground is estimated at nearly $140 million.

In laying the groundwork for the bidding, the Fund is despatching a legal expert and a mineral economist to Honduras next month to examine the investment potential of the property and to review the country's mining legislation.

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Honduras. Through income-generating activities, this project seeks to meet the basic needs of the poor at a time of structural adjustment in Honduras. UNDP will provide training and technical assistance to the Honduran Social Investment Fund (HSIF), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local municipalities to promote employment, small businesses and self-help community initiatives. It will also assist HSIF to mobilize resources for social infrastructure programmes. Thirty new projects, including rural road maintenance, will be designed to boost employment for small entrepreneurs, particularly women. Proposed UNDP budget: $1,360,000, half of which comes from government cost-sharing. Funds are to be used for management consultants, training and equipment. Government- executed in association with the International Labour Organisation and UNDP's Office for Project Services (UNDP/OPS). Implemented by the HSIF. (HON/90/007)

Regional project:

Asia and the Pacific. This initial preparatory assistance is part of a long-term project to encourage NGOs and community groups in the Asia and Pacific region to work toward a better urban environment. A five-year plan will be drawn up in consultation with NGOs and community groups to establish a framework for selection, financing and implementation of environmental projects in poor urban areas. Assistance will also include support for pilot projects to be subcontracted to NGOs in India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Proposed UNDP contribution: $352,500 for consultants, subcontracts and training. Executed by UNDP/OPS. (RAS/91/003)

Global project:

The purpose of this global research programme is to find ways of reducing the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers in rice production. UNDP will support genetic research at the International Network for Genetic Evaluation of Rice to develop rice varieties that are high-yielding and resistant to such ecological stresses as pests, diseases, drought, flooding and nitrogen deficiency. Biotechnology experiments will also be conducted to find safe alternative methods of controlling weeds and pests. Proposed UNDP contribution: $8,300,000 for researchers, workshops, travel

missions, training and equipment. Executed by the World Bank. (GLO/91/001)

6 February 1991

Benin. As part of Benin's structural adjustment programme, UNDP is helping this nation reform its education sector to make it more efficient. Investment strategies include attracting donor financing to meet the needs of large-scale restructuring. Prior to identifying specific projects for donor support, the government -- with assistance from UNDP -- will undertake an organizational and management audit of the education sector. Additional UNDP contribution for the audit: $435,150 for consultants, administrative support, subcontracts and equipment. Executed by UNESCO and implemented by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministries of Planning, Statistics, Culture, Youth and Sports. (BEN/89/001)

Bolivia. Central to Bolivia's new economic policy, launched in 1986, is fiscal reform. The country has achieved considerable progress in raising tax revenues -- but not enough to cover public spending. Recent evaluation missions recommended that Bolivia's national management capabilities be improved. Assistance will be provided to the Directorate General of Income Tax and its nine regional offices. A Human Resources Section will be established within the Directorate. Tax collection and control systems will be streamlined, and computerized data processing will be upgraded. Proposed UNDP contribution: $810,811 for tax administration experts, systems analysts, computers and project management costs. Executed by UNDP/OPS and implemented by the Ministry of Finance. (BOL/90/027)

China. In recent years China has obtained technological skills for a range of critical development needs under two separate UNDP volunteer programmes. These are the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) and the Senior Technical Advisers Recruitment (STAR) programmes. This project will consolidate these programmes, which differ mainly based on the national origin of the consultant, to transfer technological expertise in a more cost-effective manner. Short-term consultants will be fielded in areas where institutional and human resource needs are greatest, including rural development, energy, transport and communications, public administration and industrial productivity. Proposed UNDP contribution over three-years: $4,428,000 for travel and living allowances of TOKTEN and STAR consultants, administrative costs and project evaluation and monitoring. Government-executed and implemented by the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchange. (CPR/90/008)

Niger. Since the early 1980s, the UN Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) has been supporting reforestation around the capital city of Niamey in an effort to control desertification and to protect Niger's natural resources. Absence of a long-term policy to safeguard Niamey's new greenbelt hindered sustained development until 1989, when the government adopted a 20-year management plan and a five-year development plan. UNSO's support for the five-year development plan involving community participation will help preserve Niamey's greenbelt. Farmers' co-operatives will be set up and a number of agro-forestry measures will be introduced. Proposed UNSO contribution: $864,000 for consultants on socio-economic studies, personnel, subcontracts and equipment. Government-executed and implemented by the Ministry of Water and Environment. (NER/90/X02)

Regional project:

Europe. Supplementary assistance to this regional programme for Europe is aimed at strengthening the energy conservation capacities of participating countries. Through the Industrial Energy Conservation Network, known as ENCONET, energy conservation and recovery technologies will continue to be promoted in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Yugoslavia. Additional UNDP support is needed through 1991 to strengthen the regional network, and permit the establishment of a commercial company that can provide consultancy and training services to member countries. Supplementary UNDP contribution: $154,000 for consultants on marketing studies, study tours and equipment. Executed by the UN Industrial Development Organization and implemented by the ENCONET Secretariat in Prague. (RER/83/003)

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World Development

update

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news and events

New York. UNDP has approved up to US$4 million for a Special Programme to help target and meet the most urgent needs of countries affected by the Gulf Crisis. UNDP, in consultation with the affected countries and specialized UN agencies, will assist in emergency relief, re-integration of returnees, rehabilitation of institutions and infrastructure, economic management and environmental recovery.

Funds were also earmarked for Jordan and the Philippines for support in re-integrating returnee families, with special attention to households headed by women. UNDP will also help Bahrain and Qatar clean up in the wake of the Gulf oil spill. UNDP Resident Representatives, who also serve as Resident Co-ordinators for the UN system, will play central roles in assisting governments of affected countries to mobilize the resources and co-ordinate aid.

A UNDP Gulf Task Force was established at headquarters in February. "The main challenge," said William H. Draper III, UNDP Administrator, "is to link the issues of peace, security and development in the post-war period and by so doing, heal the wounds of war."

Geneva. The United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV), which is supported by UNDP, has despatched seven volunteers -- two from Bangladesh and five from Japan -- to the Middle East on short-term assignments to assist in emergency operations in the aftermath of the Gulf War. Four UNVs are based in Syria, two in Iran, and one at the headquarters of the UN High Commissioner Office for Refugees (UNHCR).

In Iran and Syria, the UNVs are assigned to the World Food Programme and the International Organization for Migration. They liaise closely with the UN Emergency Co-ordinator in relief activities in the region. Their responsibilities range from monitoring food operations from port to refugee camps, supervising camp construction, drafting situation reports and preparing persons for departure from transit camps.

The UNV attached to UNHCR's Public Information Section will report on activities in the region, accompany field missions and liaise with Japanese media.

"While long-term development remains the top priority," says Bill Jackson, UNV Geneva's Senior External Relations Officer, "we are delighted to make available UNVs to assist with urgent rehabilitation measures."

New York. The United Nations and Angola agreed on 11 March to resume relief activities to help the country's 1.9 million people threatened by famine due to prolonged drought and civil conflict. The UN Special Relief Programme for Angola (SRPA) was suspended on 21 December, 1990. With the resumption of the SRPA, the Secretary-General has appealed again to all UN agencies and the international donor community for humanitarian assistance.

Angola needs help in agriculture, rural water supply, tracing displaced persons, logistics, training and institutional support. UNDP's contribution of $4.3 million was borrowed against Angola's IPF funds to be reimbursed at a later date.

New York. UNDP has approved $335,000 to mobilize non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Asia to combat urban environmental pollution. Known as *Asia-Pacific 2000*, it will initially operate in India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. *Asia-Pacific 2000* borrows from an earlier UNDP initiative, the Africa 2000 Network, which fights environmental degradation in rural Africa.

Six of the world's 12 biggest cities are in Asia. Between 35 and 50 per cent of the urban population is poor, and lacks safe drinking water, proper sanitation and health care.

UNDP's pilot programme is designed to provide technical and financial assistance to NGOs and community self-help groups in refuse disposal, pollution reduction and safe water supply. It will offer local organizations environmental education and help replicate successful self-help efforts to preserve the urban environment.

Upon completion of this phase, UNDP will invest an additional $1 million and seek donor support of up to $15 million to expand the number of countries in the programme.

Tripoli. At an expert meeting in the Libyan capital from 11-15 March, the Union of the Arab Maghreb countries requested UNDP to provide technical assistance and expertise in finance, food security, infrastructure and human resources. The Union, established in 1989, consists of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. It was created to ensure peace and stimulate the free movement of goods and services and safeguard human rights.

Specifically, the Union has sought help in stemming desertification and promoting water resources management. It is also seeking assistance in the conservation of agricultural produce and the setting up of a data base for the exchange of information on agricultural products. In addition, the Union has asked for advice on a region-wide development strategy.

Some of the requests will be accommodated within ongoing regional activities. A sum of $600,000 has been allocated for the next two years through the Regional Bureau for Arab States and Europe to consider other requests.

Geneva. Participants at a meeting here from 6-8 March to revamp the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP) recast its goals and objectives, agreeing that countries themselves, and not donors, should take the lead in forest conservation and development. The gathering was called because several recent reviews concluded that the TFAP, launched in 1985, had fallen short of its original objectives. The four co-founders of the TFAP -- the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the World Bank, the World Resources Institute and UNDP -- convened the meeting, which included representatives of donor and developing countries, international agencies, NGOs and the private sector.

Participants decided that a revamped TFAP should apply a multi-sectoral approach to deforestation problems that would involve local communities and indigenous people dependent on forests for their livelihood. They also agreed to the setting up of an independent consultative group to guide the TFAP and assist in raising future funds.

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Bolivia. UNDP's Management Development Programme will provide experts to help modernize Bolivia's public sector. This revised project will emphasize investment promotion, privatization, small enterprise development and aid co-ordination. It is expected to streamline the public sector to make it more efficient. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,340,727 for experts in public administration, economists, legal experts, subcontract and study tours. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services (UNDP/OPS) and implemented by the Ministry of Planning and Co-ordination. (BOL/89/504)

Nigeria. The Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) was created to ensure quality control of Nigerian products. UNDP is helping SON by upgrading testing equipment and laboratories and improving documentation and information systems. Proposed UNDP contribution: $2,522,940 for consultants on testing and quality assurance, equipment, study tours and training. Executed by the UN Industrial Development Organization and implemented by the SON. (NIR/88/009)

Niue. Niue is an isolated South Pacific island country dependent on its shipping links for trade. Since it has no natural harbours, lighters are used to ferry goods from ships moored offshore to a small concrete wharf in Alofi Bay. The access road to the wharf was destroyed by Cyclone Ofa early last year. Funds from UNDP's Special Programme Resources (SPR) will be used to help rebuild this road and other port facilities. Proposed UNDP contribution: $300,000 for road construction, materials and equipment. Government-executed and implemented by the Public Works Department. (NUI/90/006)

Tokelau. Tokelau is another South Pacific island country hard hit by Cyclone Ofa. UNDP emergency assistance includes reconstructing the seawalls on Tokelau's three atolls and installing anemometers

and wind vanes on two of the atolls to improve weather forecasting. Four fellowships in shore protection and meteorology will benefit staff at the Public Works Department. UNDP's SPR funds of $300,000 will cover construction equipment, anemometers, wind vanes and training. Government-executed and implemented by the Office for Tokelau Affairs. (TOK/90/002)

Yemen. The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) assisted in rehabilitation efforts in Yemen after an earthquake in 1982. This follow-up project will help build a network of all-weather feeder roads, 10 primary schools and 17 hostels for teachers in the remote villages of Yemen's North-West Dhawran District. The goals are to ease movement of goods and services in the region and to develop rural areas. Proposed UNCDF contribution: $5,582,360 for construction subcontracts and project monitoring. Executed by UNDP/OPS and implemented by the Executive Office for Reconstruction. (YEM/90/C01)

Regional project:

Africa. UNDP, in supporting the *Centre Internacional des Civilizations Bantu (CICIBA)*, seeks to assure that traditional cultures will be taken into account in development planning in the 10 member countries. The Centre, based in Libreville, Gabon, will promote research on Bantu culture among universities and training institutions in eastern, central and southern Africa. Additional UNDP funding through 1991 will help CICIBA expand its satellite microstations. Research and management will also be improved. Supplementary UNDP contribution: $248,000 for equipment, research specialists, and administrative costs. Executed by UNESCO and implemented by CICIBA. (RAF/87/150)

20 February 1991

Bolivia. UNDP is supporting Bolivia's manufacturers of wood products to help diversify and expand the country's exports. UNDP expertise and training will assist manufacturers in refining product design and improving quality control, marketing and export management. It is expected that such assistance will lead to an increase in the export of wood products such as furniture, doors, frames and toys by 15 per cent annually. Proposed UNDP contribution: $180,000. Third-party cost-sharing from Denmark: $707,965. Funds are to pay for a technical advisor, experts and administrative costs. Executed by the International Trade Centre and implemented by the Institute for Export Promotion (INPEX). (BOL/90/016)

Bolivia. Bolivia's new economic policy encourages free trade to stimulate exports. UNDP will advise the government and related ministries in macro-economics, international trade, customs policies and export promotion. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,351,352 for experts, training and equipment. Executed by UNDP/OPS. Implemented by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Planning and Co-ordination and INPEX. (BOL/0/028)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea. UNDP will help modernize the country's construction industry to improve its performance. Phase I of this project will computerize architectural and structural design at the Construction Design and Calculation Centre (CDCC) and three other design institutes in the country. Proposed UNDP contribution: $930,000 for computer experts, equipment and training. Government-executed and implemented by the CDCC. (DRK/90/006)

Nigeria. The Nigerian government, recognizing the need to improve its use of development aid, has turned to UNDP for advice. Under this project revision, UNDP will help the government plan and manage development resources. It will also provide technical support and train staff to strengthen the Federal Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (FMFED). A series of public awareness workshops to sensitize senior government officials on technical co-operation will be conducted in four regional centres. Additional UNDP contribution: $391,834 for consultants, UNVs, training, workshops and equipment. Executed by UNDP/OPS and implemented by the FMFED. (NIR/90/009)

Syria. Syria's economy, which is heavily dependent on agriculture, is increasingly beset by recurring droughts. Previous UNDP assistance focused on developing irrigated areas for agriculture. As a follow-up, modern irrigation systems will be introduced in Aleppo, Deir-Ez-Zor, Homs and

Hassakeh. The Directorate of Water Management will benefit from the use of new technologies. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,074,000 for water management experts, UNV specialists, irrigation and laboratory equipment, and for setting up a $160,000 revolving fund for testing irrigation systems. Executed by FAO and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform/Directorate of Water Management. (SYR/90/001)

Regional projects:

Asia and the Pacific. Additional funding will be provided to extend through 1992 a UNV programme that has been successful in integrating youths into development activities of the Pacific islands. UNV specialists will continue to collaborate with local NGOs and community groups to train young people to develop skills and find jobs. This project promotes small-scale productive ventures such as vegetable gardens, chicken farms, fishing and handicraft production. Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomons, Vanuatu and Tonga are among the island countries participating in the UNV programme. Proposed UNDP contribution for this extension: $1,342,003 for UNV specialists, seed funds and administrative support. Executed by UNV. (RAS/86/057)

Asia and the Pacific. This revised project will improve telecommunications services in eight South Pacific island countries. UNDP will provide consultancy services and training for long-term telecommunications development in Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Samoa. Additional UNDP contribution: $534,751 for telecommunications experts, training and equipment. Executed by the International Telecommunications Union and implemented by the telecommunications ministries of participating countries. (RAS/86/190)

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